Converter box to connect two consoles...

WHITEPHOENIXUS 14 posts since

Aug 10, 2012

I have a Wii and an N64 that I want to connect to a PC monitor. Rather than buying a converter box for each and disconnecting-connecting, is there a converter box that will allow two consoles to be connected at the same time, so you can just turn on the one you want to play? This would also be a space saver as I don’t have a lot of room.

EARTHBOUND33 *2,270 posts since*

Jul 1, 2010 1. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** Aug 10, 2012 5:10 PM

i know for a fact that there are these types of converter boxes for televisions, but i've never heard of anybody using one with a PC monitor. However, if you have the right cords, it may work. The one i have is made by pelican and it works like a charm, however it only has av and component inputs and output. so you would need the appropriate adaptors to use it with a pc monitor.

MACHBIKER *2,470 posts since*

Oct 20, 2011 2. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** Aug 10, 2012 6:03 PM

There should be some kind of cable that has two ports for two consoles, with one cable to be connected to the converter box. However, I have never heard of this being done, but if this cable exists, RadioShack or perhaps Best Buy will have it.

WHITEPHOENIXUS *14 posts since*

Aug 10, 2012 3. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** Aug 11, 2012 6:36 AM

Thanks for responding. My monitor is an Asus VH197 so I left a message at the Asus Facebook page and someone sent a response. I thought I would share in case someone else wanted to know. This looks like a good deal.

It is a multi-input VGA box made by a company called Hyperkin. It is compatible with game consoles that use RCA connections. It accept NTSC or PAL video input and converts it to RGB output for any VGA monitor. It will connect up to four

game consoles and has a 3.5" speaker jack for sound. It includes a VGA cable and AC adapter. (I am typing this while reading a review of it.) The Wii hasn't been mentioned, but it is supposed to be compatible with the Game Cube and Nintendo 64. I have seen it online for about $35.

Does it sound like it would be compatible with the Wii?

MACHBIKER *2,470 posts since*
Oct 20, 2011 4. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** Aug 12, 2012 7:11 AM

Yes, this will work with the Wii. If you're interested, here is a <Removed> that shows a single-input RCA to VGA converter box.

I had to remove the Youtube video due to inappropriate language in the comments.

Message was edited by: NOA_TECH_MIKA

WHITEPHOENIXUS *14 posts since*
Aug 10, 2012 5. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** Aug 11, 2012 7:05 AM

Nice. Yes I can see that it is the same type of connections that the photos of the multi-input device shows. The video also brings up the point that I am going to need some good speakers to go with this setup. 8-) Yeah, I just checked my stuff. I have a couple of headphones, but no speakers.

MACHBIKER *2,470 posts since*
Oct 20, 2011 6. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** Aug 11, 2012 7:06 AM

Glad I could help.

WHITEPHOENIXUS *14 posts since*
Aug 10, 2012 7. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 3, 2013 10:41 AM

Finally re-found this thread. Meant to get back earlier. Bad news. I had the box all ordered and the order was cancelled because they were out of stock. They were supposed to let me know when it was back in stock, but they never did. So it looks like the converter box that I found is no longer being produced. I can’t even find any indication of a new model.

Now I am stuck again. I have speakers now to go with the monitor though.

THECLAW *550 posts since*
Dec 20, 2010 8. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 3, 2013 11:26 AM

True converter boxes widely vary. The biggest first step is deciding how much quality you want to invest in.

RCA composite while a cheap and easy to use image source, reflects that by having lower potential than others like s-video and component.

WHITEPHOENIXUS *14 posts since*
Aug 10, 2012 9. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 3, 2013 12:01 PM

How much quality do I really need? How much am I going to get out of a Wii and an N64?

I am hooking up to an Asus VH197 widescreen LED computer monitor.

THECLAW *550 posts since*
Dec 20, 2010 10. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 5, 2013 4:06 PM

A small monitor won't stretch the image as far, but you'll be sitting closer to see fine detail.

Wii has somewhat better max quality with component and 480p. N64 was limited to s-video.

WHITEPHOENIXUS *14 posts since*
Aug 10, 2012 11. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 5, 2013 4:49 PM

I just thought of some more pertinent information:

I know the N64 could be hooked up with either RGB or s-video output, but I only see one output connection for the Wii (RGB). The monitor only has VGA input.

THECLAW *550 posts since*
Dec 20, 2010 12. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 5, 2013 11:37 PM

Do you mean scart RGB as popular in Europe? N64 dropped the type I'm thinking of shortly before launch, so early revisions had unused signals left inside.

Wii is set to either s-video by NTSC firmware or RGB by PAL firmware. USA version won't do traditional RGB legit.

WHITEPHOENIXUS *14 posts since*
Aug 10, 2012 13. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 6, 2013 12:27 AM

I am in the U.S. So we have been writing about two different technologies.

I am not that technically savvy, so I have no idea about their being more than one RGB. There is no legit. Different areas of the world went with different technologies and the result was regional areas like PAL and NTSC. I understand there is a movement that wants to end that. It is an archaic system.

THECLAW *550 posts since*
Dec 20, 2010 14. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 6, 2013 1:03 AM

What did you have in mind?

Wiring and other changes don't affect the base concept. RGB means video split into red, green, and blue.

WHITEPHOENIXUS *14 posts since*

Aug 10, 2012 15. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 6, 2013 2:18 AM

I know about what RGB is. You brought up “scart” RGB as popular in Europe and the difference between the Wii using PAL and NTSC. I have no idea why.

Firmware is irrelevant if there is no jack for S-video.

So that narrows the problem down to needing RGB and audio conversion cables from two consoles to one VGA monitor and speakers.

Unless there is a connection for S-video on the Wii, I would then need a connection cable that goes from two S-video consoles to one VGA monitor and speakers, plus the S-video adaptor for the N64 since I either lost it or never had one.

THECLAW *550 posts since*
Dec 20, 2010 16. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 6, 2013 6:38 AM

Sorry. I didn't know where you were located, so I pointed out the design change between Wii consoles.

WHITEPHOENIXUS *14 posts since*
Aug 10, 2012 17. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 7, 2013 5:48 AM

That’s OK. Unfortunately the lack of capitals in the user names make the US unclear in mine. 8-)

THECLAW *550 posts since*
Dec 20, 2010 18. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 7, 2013 6:36 AM

In that case s-video is the best option included in both your N64 and Wii

Component gives Wii extra quality with 480p games.

WHITEPHOENIXUS *14 posts since*

Aug 10, 2012 19. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 8, 2013 6:48 AM

I still can only find one place for connection on either the N64 or Wii.

I have the RGB cords for both. I think I planned on getting an S-video cord for the N64, but never followed through on it.

I would connect the RGB/S-video cords for both systems to the adaptor cord then connect the free ends of the adaptor cord to the monitor and speakers?

N64___ ___monitor

_ _/

Wii___/ ___speakers

like this. So where to find the converter cable and S-video adaptor cables for the N64 and Wii?

THECLAW *550 posts since*
Dec 20, 2010 20. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 8, 2013 8:07 AM

That's normal. N64 and Wii only have one place for connection. Splitters would be needed for things like multiple TVs.

If your cables are in fact RGB, and function properly, then those consoles have been modified.

As I said Nintendo did not release an N64 or Wii in the US whose connection provides RGB.

WHITEPHOENIXUS *14 posts since*
Aug 10, 2012 21. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 9, 2013 5:42 AM

Maybe I have it wrong. On both consoles there is a squarish port that the cable plugs into. It splits into three plugs: red, yellow and white (audio). The S-video cable, if I remember correctly, ends in one round plug.

The red and white ends would have to go into a connector cable with two ends that lead into a single connection for the VGA port of the monitor. The white end would connect into another adapter cable that connects to the speakers. Either that or the white end can be plugged directly into the speakers.

THECLAW *550 posts since*
Dec 20, 2010 22. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 9, 2013 9:22 AM

OK. The yellow wire is known as composite video. Cheap and easy yet relatively low quality.

Yellow end needs an active converter box to use on VGA monitors. Different type of signal.

Passive adapter won't work.

Red and white are audio. Correct those go out to speakers, unless your monitor contains its own speakers (some models do).

WHITEPHOENIXUS *14 posts since*
Aug 10, 2012 23. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 10, 2013 8:57 AM

Yes, RCA connection. This complicates things as most computer speakers have one male input plug that fits into a female output jack. Like the ones I have.

There is one power cord, then a cord that runs between the two speakers. This way, they run off of one power source and have one input source.

So I have two RCA output cords that need a **composite** video to VGA converter cord or box with multiple input, and a separate cord or box that has 2 sets of left and right female audio inputs to one single female output adaptor.

Or one converter box that does all that.

At least I am getting closer to telling the stores what I am looking for.

EDIT: Even after I kept checking the previous note, I still wrote component instead of composite.

THECLAW *550 posts since*
Dec 20, 2010 24. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 10, 2013 8:35 AM

Yup badly planned out terminology/etc makes things more difficult than it should've been.

Component can be confused with composite due to similiar name. Or confused with RGB due to the wire colors.

WHITEPHOENIXUS *14 posts since*
Aug 10, 2012 25. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 10, 2013 9:00 AM

Badly planned technology too. You would have figured by the time the Wii came out they would have considered simplifying the connection process and making it more flexable.

THECLAW *550 posts since*
Dec 20, 2010 26. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 10, 2013 4:44 PM

I guess. That's because we're part of a minority of users.

Most people don't put much effort into seeking out better quality or want to use unintended displays like a VGA monitor.

For casuals the connection process hasn't changed at all since SNES. Same red, white, and yellow plugs, into the same slot on TVs.

WHITEPHOENIXUS *14 posts since*
Aug 10, 2012 27. **Re: Converter box to connect two consoles at the same time.** May 10, 2013 5:38 PM

What will they do when eventually the old RCA/RGB connections on TVs finally disappear?